IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-36 and add new claims 37-81. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-36.   (Canceled)

37.   (New) A method in a data processing system comprising:

examining the nodes in a plurality of hierarchical trees;

determining if a node is present in only one tree; and

creating a merged tree based on the nodes in the hierarchical trees.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

creating a reference node to the node determined to be present in only one tree if a node is determined to be present in only one tree; and

adding the reference node to the merged tree.

39.   (New) The method of claim 38 further comprising:

creating the reference node in response to a determination that a node is present in only one tree.

40.   (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the reference node is a pointer.

41.   (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the reference node is a Java reference.

42.   (New) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

determining if the hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

43.   (New) The method of claim 42 further comprising:

selecting the node with the highest priority from the set of equivalent nodes if the

hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

44.   (New) The method of claim 43 further comprising:

creating a shallow clone of the selected node; and

adding the shallow clone to the merged tree.

45.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group

tree and a user tree.

46.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group

tree and an admin tree.

47.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a user tree

and an admin tree.

48.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group

tree, a user tree, and an admin tree.

49.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the hierarchical trees are DOM trees.

50.   (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the DOM trees are XML DOM trees.

51.   (New) The method of claim 37 further comprising:

printing the merged tree.

52.   (New) A data processing system comprising:

a memory comprising a program that:

      examines the nodes in a plurality of hierarchical trees;

      determines if a node is present in only one tree; and

      creates a merged tree based on the nodes in the hierarchical trees; and

a processor for running the program.

53.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the program further:

creates a reference node to the node determined to be present in only one tree if a node is

determined to be present in only one tree; and

adds the reference node to the merged tree.

54.   (New) The data processing system of claim 53 wherein the program further:

creates the reference node in response to a determination that a node is present in only

one tree.

55.   (New) The data processing system of claim 53 wherein the reference node is a

pointer.

56.   (New) The data processing system of claim 53 wherein the reference node is a

Java reference.

57.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the program further:

determines if the hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

58.   (New) The data processing system of claim 57 wherein the program further:

selects the node with the highest priority from the set of equivalent nodes if the

hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

59.   (New) The data processing system of claim 58 wherein the program further:

creates a shallow clone of the selected node; and

adds the shallow clone to the merged tree.

60.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the hierarchical trees

comprise a group tree and a user tree.

61.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the hierarchical trees

comprise a group tree and an admin tree.

62.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the hierarchical trees

comprise a user tree and an admin tree.

63.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the hierarchical trees

comprise a group tree, a user tree, and an admin tree.

64.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the hierarchical trees are

DOM trees.

65.   (New) The data processing system of claim 64 wherein the DOM trees are XML

DOM trees.

66.   (New) The data processing system of claim 52 wherein the program further:

prints the merged tree.

67.   (New) A computer-readable medium comprising instructions for controlling a

data processing system to perform a method comprising the steps of:

examining the nodes in a plurality of hierarchical trees;

determining if a node is present in only one tree; and

creating a merged tree based on the nodes in the hierarchical trees.

68.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

creating a reference node to the node determined to be present in only one tree if a node is determined to be present in only one tree; and

adding the reference node to the merged tree.

69.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

creating the reference node in response to a determination that a node is present in only one tree.

70.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 wherein the reference node is a pointer.

71.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 wherein the reference node is a Java reference.

72.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

determining if the hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

73.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 72 wherein the method further comprises the step of:

selecting the node with the highest priority from the set of equivalent nodes if the hierarchical trees comprise a set of equivalent nodes.

74.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 73 wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

creating a shallow clone of the selected node; and

adding the shallow clone to the merged tree.

75.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group tree and a user tree.

76.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group tree and an admin tree.

77.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a user tree and an admin tree.

78.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the hierarchical trees comprise a group tree, a user tree, and an admin tree.

79.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the hierarchical trees

are DOM trees.

80.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 79 wherein the DOM trees are

XML DOM trees.

81.   (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 67 wherein the method further

comprises the step of:

printing the merged tree.